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231

Commission of Ira Allen and Stephen R. Bradley

Aug. 16th, 1780

Read February ——

State of Vermont

By the Governor—

Whereas the Supreme Legislature of this State did at their Session in October last past, resolve "That five persons be chosen by ballot, agents in behalf of the freemen of this State, to appear at the Congress of the United States of America on the first day of February next, and they or any three of them are hereby fully authorized and empowered by the freemen aforesaid to vindicate their rights to independence at that Honorable Board."

And whereas the said agents appeared at Congress on the 1st first day of Febry officially, and transacted the business of their appointment, agreeable to their instructions, and made report to the Supreme Legislature of their doings at their Sessions in March last—

And whereas by late advice recd from Congress; it appears requisite that commissioners should be appointed for the time being, to attend and deliver officially to Congress, such despatches as shall be sent from the Authority of this State, from time, to time, And also to remonstrate against any act of Congress, which may infringe the rights and sovereignty of this State.

I have therefore thought fit by and with advice of Council, to appoint and Commissionate Ira Allen and Stephen R. Bradley Esqueires, and they are hereby appointed with full power to transact the business aforesaid.

Given under my hand and the Common Seal of this State in the Council Chamber at Bennington this 16th August, 1780

Thos Chittenden

By his Excellency's Command

Joseph Fay, Secy.

231

Philadelphia Sept. 12th, 1780.

Sir,

We do the honor to forward your Excellency a duplicate of the appointment of Commissioners from the State of Vermont to wait upon the Honorable Congress of the United States—

Herewith you will receive a letter from His Excellency the Governor of Vermont, with a pamphlet referred to in said letter, which we have positive orders to lay before Congress, and are

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

Ira Allen

Stephen R. Bradley—

His Excellency

Samuel Huntington Esq.

President of Congress —

The Remonstrance of the Commissioners from the State of Vermont. Read Sept 26. 1780.

To the Honorable Congress of the United States of America

The Remonstrance of Ira Allen and Stephen R. Bradley, Commissioners from the free and independent State of Vermont appointed for the time being to attend on Congress — With pleasure they embrace the first opportunity to testify their thanks for the personal honor done them by Congress in giving them an attendance though in a private capacity with their honorable body, At the same time lament the necessity which obliges them to say, they can no longer sit as idle spectators without betraying the ~~trust~~ reposed in them, and doing violence to their feelings, to see partial modes pursued, plans adopted Exparte, evidence exhibited which derives all its authority from the attestation of the party, passages of writings selected giving very false representations of facts to answer no other, and but to prejudice your Honorable body against the State of Vermont thereby to intrigue and baffle a brave and merritorious people out of their rights and Liberties. We can easily conceive the Secretary's office of the State of N. York may be converted into an inexhaustable source to furnish evidence to answer their purpose in the present dispute —

Needless would it be for us to inform Congress that by the mode of trial now adopted the State of Vermont can have no hearing without denying itself, And to close with those Resolutions which we conceive our Enemies have extorted from your honorable body, and on which the trial is now placed, would be in fact taking on ourselves that humility and self abasement as to loose our political life, in order to find it —

We believe the wisdom of Congress sufficient to point out, that pursueing the present mode is deviating from every principle of the law of Nature or Nations. (For if the dispute is between the states claiming on the one

part, and the State of Vermont on the other whether the latter be a State de jure. Or independent jurisdiction de facto, They ought to be considered in the course of the dispute till the powers interposing have determined whether the latter be an independent jurisdiction de jure? if not: then of course they ought to annihilate the State de facto in the first place; is summarily ending the dispute. To deny the latter any independent jurisdiction de facto is to deny there is any longer parties in the dispute—

Again we conceive the means connected with the end, and upon no principle whatever can we justify that either party should establish the modes or rules to be pursued in determining disputes without confounding every idea of right and wrong in the present case on the one part might the end as justly have been established as the way and means to effect the end—

We are far from being willing those brave and strenuous efforts made by the State of Vermont in the contest with Great Britain should be buried by our grasping adversaries thirsting after domination and pray in the pious pretext of rioters toriously assuming government, and we thereby loose all credit from the men and money we have expended.

Thus while we are necessitated to remonstrate gaenst the proceedings of Congress on the present mode, we are willing at the same time any equitable inquiry should be made, the State of Vermont being allowed equal priviledges with the other State in the dispute. And that the State of Vermont may stand justified to your Honorable body, and to the world, both as to her present and future conduct. We are induced as well from principle of attachment to the Grand American Cause, as a regard we have for peace and harmony

among the States of America now at war with Great Britain, to make the following proposals.

First- That the State of Vermont will as soon as may be forward to the Secretary of Congress an attested return of all male persons liable to duty, agreeable to a Militia act heretofore exhibited to Congress, in a Code of Laws entitled the Laws of Vermont" and the State of Vermont shall for and during the present war with Great-Britain, from year to year furnish an equal number of Troops in the field in proportion to their number as Congress shall estimate the quota of the several United States in proportion to their numbers which said troops shall be clothed, quartered and paid by the State of Vermont, and at the close of the war, the dispute shall be equitably settled by the Mediation of Sovereign powers- And nothing herein contained shall be construed to take away the right any of the United States claim to have in or over the State of Vermont, or

Secondly- We are willing to agree upon some one or more of the Legislatures of the disinterested States to interpose as Mediators and settle the dispute, or-

Thirdly- We are willing Congress being possessed of Sovereignty, should interpose to prevent the effusion of human blood, at the same time we reprobate every idea of Congress setting as a Court of Judicatory to determine the dispute by virtue of Authority given them by the act or acts of the State or States that make but one party.

It gives us pungent grief that such an important cause, at this critical juncture of affairs, on which our all depends, should be forced on by any gentlemen professing themselves friends to the cause of America with such vehemence, and spirit, as appears on the part of the State of New York, and shall only add, that if the matter is thus pursued, we stand ready to appeal to God and the World, who must be accountable for the awful consequences that may endue

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Ira Allen
Stephen R. Bradley -

Signed at Philadelphia
the 22nd day of September in
the Year of our Lord 1780

Philadelphia October 2d 1780

Sir,

We have the honor to inform Congress that the time of our appointment to attend on Congress expired yesterday, in consequence of which, we set out this morning to meet the General Assembly of the State, which are to convene the 12th inst. to adopt measures to prosecute the war in conjunction with the thirteen United States, and for regulating their own internal police. We are assured the Genl Court of the State of Vermont will make every effort in their power to establish the sovreignty and independence of America, and could wish that principle might be unanimously observed by every man in authority throughout the American States.

The dispute respecting the State of Vermont is of such great concern, it appears to us of the highest importance, that Congress should be rightly acquainted with the dispute before they interpose on either side, which at present they cannot while America is in her present situation. We can further observe that we have many papers more authentic than those that have been exhibited to Congress, that will show our right to sovereignty over the claims of all our adversaries which we have not here at present.

For these and many other reasons, we must request Congress to postpone a future inquiry in the premises till a future day -

And have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most Obedient
Humble Servants
Ira Allen
Stephen R. Bradley -

His Excellency
Samuel Huntington Esqr
President of Congress.